



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 2/2/09
HB 301

MILODRAGOVICH, DALE
STEINBRENNER & NYGREN

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January 29, 2009

Ron Stoker, Chair
House of Representatives Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 137
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: HB 301 "An Act Including Reasonable Paralegal Fees As A Component Of Attorney Fees
That May Be Awarded To A Prevailing Party In Certain Cases; Defining "Paralegal"

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for HB 301, sponsored by Representative Deborah Kottel, which allows paralegal fees to be recovered as a component of attorney fees. The bill also clearly defines a paralegal.

Paralegals hold advanced level positions. Under the supervision of an attorney, they independently perform specialized and complex legal research and analysis, draft correspondingly sophisticated legal pleadings, as well as other activities in the delivery of legal services. These tasks would otherwise be performed by licensed attorneys.

As an integral partner in the delivery of legal services to the public, the paralegal has a special responsibility for the quality of justice provided. The paralegal through his/her work with the supervising attorney provides a high quality of legal services at a reduced hourly rate to the client. In the increasing demands of today's practice of law, paralegals play a pivotal role.

If you have any questions or require anything additional from us, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

MILODRAGOVICH, DALE
STEINBRENNER & NYGREN, P.C.


Michael J. Milodragovich

MJM:de